

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1945.

To The Chairman and Members of Committee.

This Report, the seventh of the War period, is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in a Ministry of Health Circular dated 11th February, 1946, which directed that it should be of a similar form to that of 1944.

The present Medical Officer of Health took over the duties of his post on the retirement of Dr. W. H. Scott at the beginning of the final Quarter of the Year, hence his Report has been compiled largely from records of his predecessor.

The year which brought the end of the War in Europe and Asia, has seen the return of the remainder of the Evacuee population to their own homes, the closing of the Hostel at "Sunrise," and the Sick Bay there. The L.C.C. Nursery Home at "The Cliffs" still remains.

Apart from routine matters of Public Health administration, the main preoccupation of The Medical Officer of Health has been the housing problem. Much time has been spent in visiting all the homes of those applying to the Council for accommodation, and interviewing the applicants. The data thus obtained about overcrowding, the sanitary condition of the homes, and the health of the occupants has been collated, and applied to a "Points System" of selection which takes into consideration all relevant factors.

The general health of the Town has been excellent throughout the year. The death rate shows an improvement, dropping from 12.4 per 1000 to 10.4 per 1000. The birth rate, however, has declined rather steeply from 14.2 per 1000 to 7.8 per 1000.

Infectious Diseases

The total number of infectious cases amounted to 23 - a figure which would be much better but for 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, all occurring in one Nursery Home.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Diphtheria	1	-	-
Scarlet Fever	10	-	-
Whooping Cough	4	-	-
Measles	8	-	-

Diphtheria Immunisation

The response to this service continues very fair, considering especially the falling off of the birth rate since 1942/1944: 57 children completed the Course, of which number, 54 were under 5 years of age.

Scabies and other contagious diseases have not been a Public Health problem during the year, although there were still cases resident at Sunrise early in the year (all these cases had come from Teignmouth).

Evacuees.

In July, the majority of the remaining Evacuees (unaccompanied) were returned to their homes; before leaving, they were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health.

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Water

During the year no major extensions were made in the area of supply. The water leaving the filtration plant was tested several times during the year, and on each occasion, was found to be of a very high quality, most of the Reports showing probable number coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml. \approx nil, and all were described as satisfactory bacteriologically.

Sewerage.

Owing to lack of building development, there have been no additions to Sewers. During the year Messrs. Waterhouse and Rounthwaite, Consulting Engineers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne have been gathering technical data, including several hundred sea float tests, in order to report upon the alleviation of nuisance on part of the Beaches, and upon the sewerage of areas to be developed, to eliminate the use of cesspools.

Vital Statistics

Population 7000.

Live Births - Male 32; Female 23; Total 55

Birth Rate = 7.8 per 1000
10 year average 10.9 per 1000
England and Wales

Still Births Male 1; Female 1; Total 2

Rate = 36.3 per 1000 live births

Deaths Male 32; Female 35; Total 67

Death Rate = 16.4 per 1000.
England and Wales.

Infant Mortality (under 1 year) Nil.
Maternal Mortality - Nil.

(Signed) H. A. CONSTABLE.

Medical Officer of Health.

